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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st TO 56th MEETINGS

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
from 28 January to 8 March 1991

Corrigendum

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The present document contains the corrections received from participants and from the Secretariat applying to the English text of the summary records of the public meetings of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1991/SR.1-20, 20/Add.1, 21-32, 33/Add.1, 34-42, 43, 44, 44/Add.1, 45, 46, 47/Add.1, 48-50, 50/Add.1, 51-54, 55/Add.1 and 56).

The Commission also held five closed meetings, the summary records of which (E/CN.4/1991/SR.32/Add.1, 33, 42/Add.1, 47 and 55) were issued in restricted distribution. The corrections to the records of these closed meetings appear in document E/CN.4/1991/SR.1-56/Corrigendum/Add.1, which was also issued in restricted distribution.

With the issuance of the corrigenda (E/CN.4/1991/SR.1-56/Corrigendum and Add.1), the summary records of the meetings held by the Commission at its forty-seventh session are to be considered as final.

GE.91-14069/3934B

3rd meeting

Paragraph 21

The last line should read

Palestinians, whose legitimate rights would continue to be supported by Turkey.

6th meeting

Paragraph 9, line 3

For delegation, had like read delegation had, like

Paragraph 36, line 2

For extra-judicial read extrajudicial

8th meeting

Paragraph 66, line 2

For up on read upon

Paragraph 90, last line

For continued read continue

10th meeting

Paragraph 16, line 1

Delete that

Paragraph 18, last line

Delete of which

Paragraph 21, line 4

For irrefutably that the read irrefutably the

Paragraph 26

The name of the speaker should read Mr. LE LUONG MINH

Paragraph 34, line 1

Before Turkey insert Observer for

Paragraph 35, last line

After rights insert and no Government existed representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction as to race, creed or colour

Paragraph 36, line 6

After condition insert for a bi-national State

Paragraph 37, line 4

For its right of read its due rights of defence, protection and

Paragraph 41, last line

At the end of the paragraph insert

He underlined that in order to strengthen the implementation of the self-determination principle where it was fully justified, all attempts to use it as an instrument of mischief or terror or to justify separatism should be firmly discouraged.

Paragraph 48, line 2

For repeatably read repeatedly

Paragraph 52, line 1

After decades, insert the

12th meeting

Paragraph 7, line 1

Before United Kingdom insert Observer for

Paragraph 14, line 2

For achivement read achievement

Paragraph 16, line 2

For South Africa, while under read South Africa while, under

Paragraph 30, line 3

For world-wide read worldwide

Paragraph 64, line 2

For bi-polar read bipolar

Paragraph 92, penultimate line

For under-development read underdevelopment

Paragraph 107, line 4

For extra-judicial read extrajudicial

16th meeting

Paragraph 14, line 3

For Bophuthatswara read Bophuthatswana

18th meeting

Paragraph 55, line 3

For Permanent Tribunal of Peoples read Permanent Peoples' Tribunal

20th meeting

Paragraph 16, line 1

The name of the speaker should read Ms. CURBELO

Paragraph 48, line 4

For rights, and the read rights. In the

Paragraph 62, line 1

For Mr. KOUTCHINSKI (Ukrainian SSR) read Mr. KOUTCHINSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

Paragraph 63, line 1

For world conference on human rights read World Conference on Human Rights

Paragraph 71, line 2

After result insert of

21st meeting

Paragraph 34, line 1

Delete three

22nd meeting

Paragraph 4, penultimate line

For promoting read promotion

Paragraph 45, line 2

For human right read human rights

26th meeting

Paragraph 33, line 1

For Ms. AL-ABDUL-RAZZAQ read Mr. AL-ABDUL-RAZZAQ

Paragraph 34, line 5

For She read He

Paragraph 36, line 1

For Her read His

27th meeting

Paragraph 90

Line 1: (a) the name of the speaker should read Mr. AL-ABDUL-RAZZAQ

(b) for her read his

Last line: for she read he

Paragraph 91

Line 6: for She herself read He himself and for her read his

Line 7: for her life read his life, for her children and her husband read his children and his wife

Line 8: for She read He

Line 9: for her tongue cut off and her eyes read his tongue cut off and his eyes

for she read he

Line 12: for she read he

28th meeting

Paragraph 87, last line

For Rightshad read Rights had

Paragraph 119, line 7

Delete latter

30th meeting

Paragraph 18, line 1

The name of the speaker should read Mr. O'FLOINN

Paragraph 44, line 1

The name of the speaker should read Mr. JAYATILAKA

Paragraph 88, penultimate line

For , ,nd read , and

Paragraph 91, line 6

For Revoluntary read Revolutionary

32nd meeting

Paragraph 19, last line

After continents insert had

Paragraph 21, line 4

Delete but

Paragraph 98

Line 1: the name of the speaker should read Mr. AZIMFAR

Line 5: for She read He

Paragraph 99, line 5

For She read He

Paragraph 100, line 1

For She read He

Paragraph 101, line 1

The name of the speaker should read Mr. VASQUEZ

Paragraph 103, line 4

For University of Harvard read Harvard University

Paragraph 115, line 1

Before Republic of Korea insert Observer for

35th meeting

Paragraph 61, line 26

For warship read helicopter

40th meeting

Paragraph 154

Line 1: (a) The name of the speaker should read Mr. DEMIRALP

(b) Before parties insert politically and legally equal

Line 4: For community's wish read Cypriot side's obsession

Paragraph 155, lines 1 and 2

For the existing text substitute

155. Being aware of the futile Greek Cypriot tactics at the international fora, he was not surprised by their trying once more to take advantage of the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side. The well-documented past and the root-causes of the Cyprus question could not be obliterated. Security Council resolution 649 (1990) confirmed the fact that the Cyprus question sparked off more than 25 years ago. To be more precise, in December 1963, the Greek Cypriots launched an all-out attack on the Turkish Cypriot people and schemed in a monstrous plan called the "Akritas Plan", designed to annex Cyprus to Greece and to annihilate the Turkish Cypriot people. Thereafter,

Paragraph 157

Line 7: for the developments in read the winds of self-determination blowing in Central and Eastern

Last line: after oblivion insert with the help of its supporters

Paragraph 159, last line

After entirety insert , which at present constituted the valid framework for the negotiating process

Paragraph 160, line 2

For communities read peoples

41st meeting

Paragraph 73

Lines 1 to 5 should read

73. The representative of Yugoslavia had raised once again the so-called "Macedonian question" which had been practically forgotten since the Greek civil war of 1946-1949. If that period had been unfortunate in the Greek annals, which Greeks of all shades of political opinion had decided to consign to history, it had also been a black page in Greek-Yugoslav relations. Indeed, certain Yugoslav circles had tried at

Line 13: after restraint insert on the Greek side

Line 14: after wider insert and more general

Paragraph 74

For the existing text substitute

74. From the mid-1980s, the Yugoslav Central Government had begun to lose control of the fanatic nationalist elements in Skopje in the wake of the internal ethnic conflicts in Yugoslavia. Those very same conflicts had reached proportions that everyone was aware of. Greece once again thought that that might be nothing more than fanaticism from Skopje. However, it was with great concern that they witnessed the Central Government in Belgrade leaning towards those policies; and what was pronounced by the Yugoslav delegate the previous night bore testimony to that fact.

Paragraph 75

For the existing text substitute

75. It was not surprising that for centuries history had made mention of the nationalities which compose contemporary Yugoslavia as the Serbs, the Croates, the Slovenes and the Montenegrans. There had never been any mention of "Macedonians" at that time. It was only after the Second World War that the leaders in Skopje decided to call their Republic by the name

of the whole geographic area covering parts of Greece, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. But, if any country could identify itself with Macedonia for historical reasons, that country was Greece, which had been inextricably linked with Macedonia for over 30 centuries. The hijacking of the term "Macedonia" must cease once and for all.

44th meeting (first part)

Paragraph 35

Lines 3 and 4: for the existing text substitute

In the context of international treaties and agreements which govern their status and rights, members of that minority had always expected to be treated in their ancestral land as equals to other Greek citizens. That, sadly, was still an expectation. Positive human rights developments in Europe were yet to reach Western Thrace, while members of the Turkish Muslim minority continued to be victims of gross human rights violations. In sharp contrast with its international commitments, Greece's policy towards its own citizens belonging to the Turkish Muslim minority was based on systematic discrimination and gradual elimination from Greek society.

Paragraph 36

Line 6: for Notwithstanding read Despite

Line 8: after ethnic Greeks. insert But when an ethnic Greek bought land from an ethnic Turk, he was awarded long-term credits by the Government. That inadmissible discrimination reached such a dimension that not only could ethnic Turks not buy and sell land, but they could not build or repair houses.

Line 10: after fatal blow. insert Even if they had land, because they were rarely permitted to obtain licences to drive tractors, they could not make any use of it.

Paragraph 37

For the existing text substitute

37. Even their freedom of movement was limited by the establishment of the so-called "restricted areas". The members of the minority were required to obtain passes to travel in and out of these zones. There were no comparable prohibited zones in Europe. Access of foreign observers to Western Thrace was rendered difficult by the Greek authorities in order to isolate the Turkish minority and to hide its plight from the rest of the world. The freedom of expression and press of the minority members was severely restricted and put under close surveillance by the Greek authorities. It was unfortunate that

television and radio jamming was being resorted to at the current time. The religious freedom of the minority had been violated by the denial of the right to choose their own religious leader known as the mufti, in accordance with the Treaty of Athens and the Treaty of Lausanne. That fundamental right of the minority had been confiscated by issuing a governmental decree on the eve of the election for the mufti of Komotini on 28 December 1990.

Paragraph 38

For the existing text substitute

38. The Greek authorities seemed resolved not even to allow the minority to make its voice heard through its legally and freely elected representatives in the Parliament. Dr. Sadik Ahmet, a member of the Turkish minority, was first elected to the Parliament as an independent deputy from Komotini in 1989. In November of the same year, he was not permitted to run for early elections. He was put in jail and sentenced to imprisonment because of having described as "Turkish" the ethnic origin of the Muslim minority. His release could have been obtained only under international pressure. In the course of the previous year, Dr. Sadik Ahmet was again elected to the Parliament along with Dr. Ahmet Faikoglu, another Greek citizen of Turkish origin, both as independent candidates. The optimism created by the election of these two Greek citizens of Turkish origin to the Parliament was short lived. First, the law on parliamentary elections had been modified with a view to making impossible the accession of an independent candidate to a seat in the Parliament. Thereafter, the Greek authorities had engaged in an effort to remove the immunities of two Greek parliamentarians of Turkish ethnic origin. Sadik Ahmet was again accused of having used the terms "Turkish" and "Turkish minority" in his election campaign of December 1989, and Ahmet Faikoglu faced unfair allegations of having exerted pressure on his own electorate. In reality the Greek authorities were intent on silencing human rights activists who defended the contractual and legitimate rights of the Turkish Muslim minority.

Paragraph 39

For the existing text substitute

39. Accusations levelled against Dr. Sadik Ahmet also revealed another main aspect of Greece's policy towards its own citizens of Turkish origin. That was the denial of ethnic identity. Greek courts had actually outlawed the use of the adjective "Turkish" in describing the minority. While the situation of minorities was improving in many countries, Greece remained a country where the ethnic identity of a legally recognized minority was suppressed.

Paragraph 40

For the existing text substitute

40. All the abuses were to no avail. It was clear that international awareness regarding the rights of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace was increasing. Even in the countries of the European Community human rights organizations which were genuinely interested in the protection of minorities felt embarrassed by the situation in Greece and appealed to their respective governments to take appropriate action in the face of the gross human rights violation occurring within the Community. Persistence of the Greek Government in policies incompatible with the positive trends in Europe would cause growing international reaction and a further deterioration of the image of Greece in the field of human rights. He called on Greece to abide by its international commitments with regard to the Turkish Muslim minority in Greece. He recalled once more that Turkey would vigorously pursue the human rights issue in all pertinent forums until Greece abandoned its current policy which was in blatant violation of human rights in all its aspects.

44th meeting (second part)

Paragraph 63

For the existing text substitute

63. The members of that minority were free to practise their religion in conformity with the Constitution and there were currently 258 mosques, 78 smaller religious establishments (mescids) served by 460 Muslim ministers (Imams) and for it all it was the Greek State which spent yearly large sums of money. Those of Turkish origin were free to adopt Turkish names, converse freely in Turkish, use Turkish in Greek courts and have their children educated in Turkish. Furthermore, there were currently 16 Turkish-language newspapers and magazines and the Muslims of Thrace exercised political rights in absolute freedom, electing representatives at local and national levels. As for the two Members of Parliament of Turkish origin cited by the observer for Turkey, the public prosecutor had applied through Parliament for the lifting of their immunity on account of their infringement of the law. A three-month deadline provided for by the Rules of Procedure for the investigation was about to come to an end after which the prosecutor's request was automatically rejected and the prosecution considered terminated. The irrelevance of the Turkish argument as to the change of law on parliamentary elections was clearly shown by the fact that the threshold of 3 per cent is among the lowest in equivalent legislation of many other countries (Turkey itself imposed a 10 per cent threshold). The allegations of discrimination against Muslims in connection with land policy were equally groundless, the Greek State aspiring to the economic development of Greek Thrace which could not take place without the obviously sought after participation of both Christians and Muslims alike. A new code of citizenship was already on its way. Article 19 of the existing code was never introduced with those intentions which the observer for Turkey had named. As a matter of fact for the past number

of years it had not been implemented. The "restricted areas" on the northern border of Greece were not for members of the minority alone but applicable to all situations and Greeks as well. The Mufti in Greece was not appointed directly by the State as the observer for Turkey claimed, but selected on the basis of personal qualifications from among a list of qualified persons submitted by members of the Muslim clergy. It was worth pointing out, moreover, that the appointment of religious leaders was a common practice in countries were Islam constituted the predominant religion, including within Turkey itself. Citizens of Turkish origin, Muslims in Thrace, thus enjoyed the same rights and freedoms as all other Greek citizens and the proof of that was the fact that their number had risen from 80,000 in 1923, when the Treaty of Lausanne had been signed, to 120,000 in 1991. The same could not be said for the Greeks in Istanbul, whose number had fallen from 150,000 in 1923 to 3,500 today, and one might well ask oneself the reasons for the change. The Turkish delegation might find it useful to read more closely the numerous resolutions adopted by the European Parliament which had time and again condemned Turkey on many accounts. Before trying to scold others on human rights issues it would do better to ask itself why its country remained in the international human rights mechanisms under constant review.

Paragraph 64

Line 5 to the end of the paragraph should read

historical reasons, it was Greece, inextricably linked with Macedonia for more than 30 centuries. The hijacking of the term "Macedonia" should cease once and for all. He asked that his clarification should be reflected in the summary record of the meeting.

Paragraph 65

For the existing text substitute

65. Mr. DUNA (Observer for Turkey) thanked the observer for Greece for having acknowledged the existence of a Turkish Muslim minority. He recalled that the Turkish minority in Greece was subjected to mass violence in late January 1990. Houses and workplaces were demolished, businesses were destroyed and many Greek citizens of Turkish origin were severely wounded by well-orchestrated groups of aggressors. The Greek security officials had not tried to stop these bloody events. On the contrary, they encouraged and protected the criminal massive aggression. It was regrettable that the Greek authorities, who had failed to protect the Turkish minority against violence, had also failed to compensate the losses and damages suffered by the victims of that permitted aggression. Since the time of those deplorable events, the interest of human rights organizations in the plight of the Turkish minority had increased. In that context, he wished to draw the attention of the Commission to a report of the Helsinki Watch Committee entitled "Destroying Ethnic Identity: the Turks of Greece". After an elaboration of the facts, that Committee recommended the following to the Greek Government: to acknowledge the existence of the Turkish minority and grant them all

civil and political rights enjoyed by other Greek citizens, including the right to call themselves and their association and schools "Turkish"; to accord the Turkish minority the freedom to leave Greece and return, without the threat of deprivation of citizenship; to accord freedom of movement within Greece; to guarantee the Turkish minority equal rights, in policy and practice, to buy and sell land and houses, to build, enlarge and repair houses, schools and mosques; to guarantee the Turkish minority equal rights in business and professional life and equal access to civil service employment; to accord the Turkish minority freedom of expression, including access to radio, television and publications from Turkey and to end the harassment of the Turkish minority press; to enforce international agreements forbidding the degrading treatment of the Turkish minority, including harassment by Greek authorities; to provide the Turkish minority with freedom of religion, including the selection of Muftis and the control of religious endowments; and to accord the Turkish minority the right to appoint their own Turkish-language teachers, and to obtain and use current school books in the Turkish language. It was to be hoped that the Greek authorities would follow up those recommendations in a genuine spirit of democracy, tolerance and humanism.

Paragraph 66

For the existing text substitute

66. It was true that the Greek minority in Turkey had decreased. However, that was not a result of a campaign similar to that of Greece, but was due to a migration from Turkey for mainly economic reasons. It should be pointed out that members of the Greek minority who had left Turkey retained their Turkish citizenship. There were no obstacles to their return to Turkey. In fact, the President of the Republic confirmed that in 1988 during his visit to Athens as Prime Minister. Mr. Duna did not think that Greece would even think of giving the same opportunity to the Turks who were forced to emigrate from Western Thrace.

Paragraph 68

For the existing text substitute

68. Mr. DUNA (Observer for Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply for the second time, recalled that the observer for Greece had already stated during the Commission's forty-sixth session, in exercise of the right of reply, in reference to the question of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace raised by the observer for Turkey, that the rights and liberties of each and every one in Greece were guaranteed by the Greek Constitution but above all by a philosophy which was a way of life to them, that of democracy, tolerance and humanism. Unfortunately, the reports of the non-governmental organizations, governments, foreign observers and even the Greek press confirmed that the Turkish Muslim minority was excluded from Greek democracy, tolerance and humanism.